

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9314

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PGOV, GH

SUBJ: PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATION

1. DEMONSTRATORS PURPORTEDLY REPRESENTING 52 ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GREATER ACCRA REGION MARCHED TO THE CASTLE JULY 26 TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION TO HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG. ACCORDING TO PRESS, IN RESOLUTION THESE ORGANIZATIONS CONVEYED TO ACHEAMPONG AND SMC THEIR GRATITUDE FOR "REMARKABLE WISDOM" WITH WHICH REGIME HANDLED CRISIS CREATED BY STRIKING PROFESSIONALS, CONDEMNED LAWLESS ACTS COMMITTED "TO FLOUT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY", CONGRATULATED GOVERNMENT ON TRADE LIBERALIZATION MEASURES AND CALLED ON GOVERNMENT TO "ADHERE RIGIDLY" TO ITS PROGRAM TO RETURN GHANA TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE.

2. IN REPLY, ACEHAMONG URGED GHANAIS WHO HAVE BEEN ATTACKING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT TO TURN THEIR ATTENTION FROM CHARACTER ASSASSINATION TO OBJECTIVE CRITICISMS OF UNION GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL, ACHEAMPONG COMPLAINED THAT THESE ATTACKS WERE DESIGNED TO INCENSE PEOPLE AGAINST SMC AND THEREBY DESTROY NEED FOR UNION GOVERNMENT.

3. PRESS CLAIMED THAT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED IN DEMONSTRATION HAVE OVER 50,000 MEMBERS. OF THEM, GHANA PEACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND SOLIDARITY COUNCIL, GA ADANGBE YOUTH COMMITTEE, AND MARKET WOMEN ASSOCIATIONS APPEAR TO BE MOST IMPORTANT. GRAPHIC EDITORIALIZED THAT "TURN-OUT AND MASSIVE DEMONSTRATION... SHOULD BE AN UNMISTAKEABLE SIGN THAT THE ORDINARY PEOPLE ARE STILL SOLIDLY BEHIND THE SMC GOVERNMENT AND ENDORSE THE MANY BOLD DECISIONS RECENTLY TAKEN." IT RE-ECHOED CALL THAT GOVERNMENT ADHERE RIGIDLY TO PROGRAM FOR

RETURNING GHANA TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE AND URGED ALL
GHANAIANS TO "PUT THEIR FULL WEIGHT BEHIND THE SMC."

4. COMMENT: DEMONSTRATORS, AFOOT AND IN TRUCKS, PASSED
BY THE EMBASSY EN ROUTE TO THE CASTLE. WHILE EVENT
CLEARLY STAGE-MANAGED BY GOVERNMENT, TURN-OUT SEEMED GOOD
AND MARCHERS PLEASED WITH THEIR OUTING. WE SUSPECT
THIS REPRESENTS OPENING GUN IN CAMPAIGN BY ACHEAMPONG
AND SMC TO PROVE THAT PUBLIC IS ON THIER SIDE AND BACKS
TWO-YEAR TRANSITION PERIOD TO CIVILIAN RULE.
SMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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